

committed leader, tough debater, parliamentary tactician, and Pennsylvania booster. He spoke with great passion, and often was praised for his statesmanship, compassion, openness, Irish wit, and intelligence.

Upon his death earlier this year, he became the first person whose body lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg since Abraham Lincoln.

A true friend of animals—especially his black Labrador, Magic—Matt Ryan was very proud of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. It is in no small part because of his decades of support that the school today is one of the finest in the world.

Founded in 1884, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine was established at the urging of Penn's School of Medicine. It was recognized that prevention and control of animal diseases had important implications for human health. This is as true today as it was then—perhaps even more so—as we face a future in which advances in veterinary medicine's ability to understand biological threats will be critical in our ability to fight bioterrorism.

In February 2003, the month before Matt's untimely death, the University decided to honor his support by renaming the Veterinary Hospital after him. Benjamin Franklin is the only other State politician for whom a building on the University's campus has been named.

The renaming ceremony took place on Friday, September 19, 2003, and so I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the legacy of Speaker Matthew J. Ryan, one of the truest Pennsylvanians and a champion of people.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from the Senate earlier this week and missed rollcall votes Nos. 358 through 363. There were two reasons for my absence. First, I hosted a ceremony at the University of Connecticut honoring Bertie Ahern, Taoiseach of Ireland, and Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Great Britain. Second, I attended memorial services yesterday and today for Jack Bailey, the former Connecticut Chief State's Attorney and a close friend to both me and my family. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: on rollcall vote 358: aye; on rollcall vote 359: nay; on rollcall vote 360: nay; on rollcall vote 361: aye; on rollcall vote 362: aye; and on rollcall vote 363: aye.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH RAY MITOLA

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I take time today to tell the Senate about a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his Nation—a young man who died in the Korean war. His name is Ralph Ray Mitola.

He came from Broad Channel, NY. For those Senators who are not famil-

iar with Broad Channel, it is a populated island in Jamaica Bay. It is part of Queens County, which is one of the boroughs of the City of New York. Cross Bay Boulevard connects Broad Channel to the Rockaways, which are a magnificent gateway to the Atlantic Ocean.

The American Legion Broad Channel Memorial Post 1404 recently honored the memory of Ralph Mitola, and four other young men from Broad Channel who died in the Korean war. The occasion for the ceremony was the 50th anniversary of the armistice in Korea, which was observed by American Legion Post 1404 as part of the 85th Annual Queens County Convention Parade. Mr. President, July 27, 1953 is the day in history when negotiators signed the armistice agreement at Panmunjom. The armistice led to a North Korean withdrawal across the 38th parallel, and the Republic of South Korea regained its status as a free and democratic nation. Korea was a critical battleground in the defense of liberty against the totalitarian ideologies of the 20th century. Ralph Mitola left his home and traveled half a world away to the Korean Peninsula to defend freedom.

Corporal Mitola was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division. On August 1, 1952, during a night attack on "Old Baldy" in North Korea, he was killed by small arms fire. Corporal Mitola was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal.

As our Nation's soldiers are once again fighting for the cause of freedom overseas, it is all the more important to remember those who helped protect America on the Korean Peninsula a half century ago.

Ralph Mitola, born April 10, 1931, killed in action, August 1, 1952.

Mr. President, his loved ones and comrades in arms are eternally proud of him. I honor his memory.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER FRANCIS GROSS

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I take time today to tell the Senate about a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his Nation—a young man who died in the Korean war. His name is Walter Francis Gross.

He came from Broad Channel, NY. For those Senators who are not familiar with Broad Channel, it is a populated island in Jamaica Bay. It is part of Queens County, which is one of the boroughs of the City of New York. Cross Bay Boulevard connects Broad Channel to the Rockaways, which are a magnificent gateway to the Atlantic Ocean.

The American Legion Broad Channel Memorial Post 1404 recently honored the memory of Walter Gross, and four

other young men from Broad Channel who died in the Korean War. The occasion for the ceremony was the 50th anniversary of the armistice in Korea, which was observed by American Legion Post 1404 as part of the 85th Annual Queens County Convention Parade. Mr. President, July 27, 1953 is the day in history when negotiators signed the armistice agreement at Panmunjom. The armistice led to a North Korean withdrawal across the 38th parallel, and the Republic of South Korea regained its status as a free and democratic nation. Korea was a critical battleground in the defense of liberty against the totalitarian ideologies of the 20th century. Walter Gross left his home and traveled half a world away to the Korean Peninsula to defend freedom.

Private First Class Gross was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was taken Prisoner of War while fighting the enemy in South Korea on January 1, 1951 and died while a prisoner on July 31, 1951 at POW Camp 12 near Pyekdong, North Korea. Private First Class Gross was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal.

As our Nation's soldiers are once again fighting for the cause of freedom overseas, it is all the more important to remember those who helped protect America on the Korean Peninsula a half century ago.

Walter Gross, born May 13, 1928, died while a prisoner of war, July 31, 1951.

Mr. President, his loved ones and comrades in arms are eternally proud of him. I honor his memory.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS W. AUGUST

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I would like to take some time today to tell the Senate about a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his Nation—a young man who died in the Korean war. His name is Thomas W. August.

He came from Broad Channel, NY. For those Senators who are not familiar with Broad Channel, it is a populated island in Jamaica Bay. It is part of Queens County, which is one of the boroughs of the City of New York. Cross Bay Boulevard connects Broad Channel to the Rockaways, which are a magnificent gateway to the Atlantic Ocean.

The American Legion Broad Channel Memorial Post 1404 recently honored the memory of Thomas August, and four other young men from Broad Channel who died in the Korean war. The occasion for the ceremony was the 50th anniversary of the armistice in Korea, which was observed by American Legion Post 1404 as part of the 85th Annual Queens County Convention